Protest against agreement with Bodo-Liberation Tigers

4217. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-Bodo people of Assam have protested against the Agreement signed by the Central Government, Assam Government and Bodo-Liberation Tigers;

(b) whether they are angry because these people have not been taken into confidence before signing of agreement;

(c) what steps Government and other two signatories to the Agreement have taken to allay the fears of non-Bodo people of the area; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) The Memorandum of Settlement (MOS) signed between the Central Government, the Government of Assam and Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) on 10.2.2003 has been widely welcomed.

To protect the interests of the non-tribals, adequate safeguards have been bult in the MOS to ensure that the non-tribals in the Bodo Territorial Council (BTC) areas are not disadvantaged in relation to any rights and privileges including land rights presently enjoyed by them at the commencement of BTC.

Objectives of NHRC

†4218. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of constituting the National Human Rights Commission and arrangements made in this regard;

(b) the conditions of appointing Chairman and Members of the Commission;

(c) the number of women members and member coming from rural background; and

(d) if not, the provisions made by Government for appointing such members?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI HARIN PATHAK):(a) The NHRC has been constituted in terms of the provisions under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. The NHRC has been set up for better protection of human rights and its function includes *inter-alia* conducting inquiries into allegations relating to violation of human rights, undertake and promote research in the fields of human rights, spread human rights literacy amongst various sections of society and such other functions as are necessary for the promotion of human rights. The NHRC has been given suitable powers in order to carry out its function and make appropriate recommendations to the concerned authorities.

(b) Section 3(2) and Section 3(3) of the Protection of Human Rights act, 1993 lays down the composition of the Commission which is as follows:-

(2) The Commission shall consist of–

(a) a Chairperson who has been a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;

(b) one Member who is or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court;

(c) one Member who is, or has been the Chief Justice of a High Court;

(d) two Members to be appointed from amongst persons having knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to human rights.

(3) The Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities, the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and National Commission for Women shall be deemed to be Members of the Commission.

The Members are appointed by the President of India based on the recommendations of a High-Powered Committee chaired by the Prime Minister.

(c) and (d) There is no specific provision for appointment of women members or members coming from rural background. However, the High-Powered Committee while making recommendations for appointment to the Commission takes into account all factors before making recommendations for appointment.